

نور
 کی شادی
 وے ایہ
 دہن ہو
 اور انجی
 کوئے او
 فرماتے ہیں
 کا مطلب
 کیونکہ میں
 نے ایسا
 وہ شعر
 دوست آ
 نہ چوں
 میں کسی
 میں مبتلا
 ننگا اور
 پہاڑ
 کو نصیب
 لگ جاو
 میں تاج

SUPPLEMENT TO THE NÚR AFSHÁN

VOL. 2.

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No. 30

Editorial.

NEWS AND NOTES.

A grand-daughter of Gladstone is to come to India as a missionary. The great statesman on his death-bed was thrilled with joy when he heard of this decision.

Pundita Ramabai organized societies in America ten years ago to support her work. These circles or societies were organized to continue for ten years. As the time has now elapsed the Pundita's present visit to America is in order to re-establish this or a similar scheme of systematic support. She has been well received.

The Spanish-America war seems likely to soon come to an end. Two-thirds of Cuba have already been surrendered to the Americans and it is only a matter of time until Marshal Blanco and his army will be compelled to yield. We trust this may be accomplished without further bloodshed.

Much has been said by Anglo-Indian newspapers about the unpreparedness of the American Army. On this supposition, is it not singular that

22,000 men have surrendered to 17,000 the former having had the advantage of intrenchments?

Our "cousin"—the *Makhzan* i *Masih* has an eye of great penetrating power. The Roentgen rays scarcely surpass the power of that eye; indeed the said rays merely reveal what is inside but the eye of our contemporary sees things that are not, as those which are. In making up a series of questions as to what Jesus would do under certain circumstances, we intentionally chose questions which admit of different answers.

It was our purpose by so doing to emphasize the principle that the decision of each question rests with each individual. It was not our intention to indicate in each case what the answer should be. Even yet we are not clear as to what answer Jesus in our place would give to some of these questions. We admit that the answer to many of the questions may be "obvious" to the *Makhzan*. But as it was our intention to avoid the assertion of what is obvious and what is not so, we really think our contemporary has been beating a bush where there is no game.

We are glad when Indian Christians get Government positions. We would not say one word against any

one seeking such employment. There is a theory however, which one at times hears used in justification of the choice of Government employment, to which we want to call attention. We do not say, remember, that anyone is compelled to justify his choice before any one but God alone, but still we hear attempts made thus: "My purpose in entering Government employment where the pay is better is that I may be able to give more to the support of the Church." We have only words of praise for such an aim. Our only difficulty is that the figures are lacking to show that this purpose comes to anything. There are exceptions to all rules, but it would be a safe assertion that men in Government employment give less to the Church in proportion to their means than others. Why is this?

Is the atmosphere so unfavourable that the early purpose formed with zeal cannot possibly thrive, but dies a natural death in worldliness and selfishness? We leave this question with our readers. May the day be hastened when the theory referred to may become a reality and men in civil employ shall become strong pillars in support of the church.

Spain must now set to work to discover the reason for her fall. She will, we trust, learn to remember with



abhorrence the fearful Inquisition which silenced the best thought and crushed out the best aspirations of her best people and laid the foundation of the present disaster and the long continued decadence of the nation. In 1492, Torquemada firmly established the Inquisition; in the same year Columbus discovered America. Then Spain was the strongest nation in Europe, while America was a wilderness. "He that runneth may read" the lesson of Rome rule and of freedom. We trust Spain and the islands of the sea may get out from under the incubus of priestcraft and pope-rule and learn what wondrous blessings follow in the train of evangelical religion whose pillars are education and intellectual and religious freedom.

Missionary Societies are preparing to send the pure Gospel to the priest-ridden islands where Spanish rule has been broken.

If religious liberty be secured for Spain and the islands which have been under her rule, the bloodshed in the conflict will be real the "seed" of blessing.

Current Thought.

THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

ATTENTION has lately been drawn to these islands by the recent destruction of the Spanish fleet off Manila, the capital, by the Americans. They form a large group in the Pacific Ocean to the south of China and Japan. They were discovered by Magellan in 1521 and on one of the smaller islands he was killed. They were named the Philippine Islands after Philip II., of Spain. The three largest islands are Luzon in the north, Mindanao in the south and Palawan in the south-west. Manila, the capital, on the island of Luzon, was founded by the Spaniards in 1571 and ever since the islands have been nominally under their rule.

While none of the islands have very high mountains (the highest, Apo, in Mindanao, being over 9,000

feet), still all the islands may be described in general as mountainous and hilly. Volcanic forces have had a large share in shaping the archipelago, but few of the peaks are now volcanic. In 1814 a terrible eruption destroyed 12,000 people. In 1867 the same District was visited with another eruption. The Philippines are also notorious for terrible typhoons. In 1876 one of the storms burst over Luzon, pouring down the sides of the mountain Mayon, bringing destruction to a number of cities, completely ruining 6,000 houses. Typhoons on the coast are also common. The third great evil to which the islands are treated are the earthquakes, which visit them so frequently that they affect the style adopted in the erection of buildings. The most violent earthquake occurred in 1880, destroying an immense amount of property, including the cathedral.

Manila lies on the western side of the island of Luzon, and is about 6090 miles from Hongkong. It has one of the most spacious and beautiful harbours in the world. The shores are low and inland can be seen the outline of mountains. The city of Manila resembles a dilapidated fortress surrounded by stone walls 3000 years old. There is also a wide, shallow moat. The gates are never closed and it is doubtful if the City could make any defence. There is also an old fort. Several creeks branch off from the landlocked bay and afford a means of communication with the suburbs. These creeks are crossed by innumerable bridges, and canoes thread their way through these narrow water ways, which somewhat resemble a tropical Venice. Around the walls and the edge of the bay is a fashionable drive lined with almond trees. It is here that the well-to-do inhabitants walk, drive, and meet their friends. Of nearly 300,000 people in the Province there are not more than 5,000 Spaniards. One of the most curious sights to the traveller who comes from China are the large two-wheel drays drawn by buffaloes. They are guided by a ring through their nose, to which is attached a cord leading back to the driver, who either mounts on his back or rides on the shafts. The weight of the load is borne on the neck by means of a yoke.

In the two best streets of Manila there are excellent stores in which goods of all kinds can be purchased at moderate prices, many of the merchants being Chinese. The Churches must have been imposing buildings years ago before they were shaken and in some cases wrecked by earthquakes.

The dwelling houses in Manila are constructed with a view of shutting out the intense heat of the summer. The houses are rarely more than two stories in height, owing to the ravages of earthquakes. Glass is of course unknown, as the earthquakes would shiver every pane.

In the old City the streets are narrow and the houses solid and gloomy. The Spaniards born in the Iberian Peninsula look down upon those born in the islands, so that class distinctions are very closely drawn. This has resulted in the failure to make political combinations. Hatred and jealousy of the foreigner are carried to extreme limits, the Chinese coming in for a large share of their disfavour. The theatres are poor, concerts are rare, there is no library, and their amusements are mostly limited to hearing the band play, attending balls on Sundays and cock fights. The cockpits are licensed by the government, and, though the betting is limited by law, the citizens will not hold to it.

The native inhabitants of the Islands are Malays and Negritoes—a race resembling negroes. They live along the banks of the rivers in huts made of bamboo and cane, thatched with palm leaves. They wear large hats to protect themselves from the sun. Cigar makers in and around the City of Manila number 22,000, and they are all girls and women with the exception of 1,500 men. They make their cigars squatting on their heels or sitting on bamboo stools two inches high. They frequently come from considerable distances, going back and forth in boats. Tobacco has always been and probably will continue to be the most important product of the Philippines. Government of the Spaniards has been selfish and unpopular. There have been insurrections put down with an iron hand, and many atrocities committed.

It is to be hoped that the present war will result in an improvement of the condition of the people.

Selection.

Honouring Parents.

One of the most touching scenes in any biography is that of the great Dr. Samuel Johnson, in his old age, standing bareheaded on a rainy day in the market place of Uttoxeter to do penance for having disobeyed his father when a boy. Filial reverence

is one of the best evidences of a sound heart. When our Almighty Creator had graven on Sinai's tables of stone four commandments enjoining homage to Himself, the very next commandment enjoins obedience to parents. This is the one commandment that has a rich promise connected with it.

Probably the reason is that the home underlies both the State and the Church; the household is older than either of them. The family is the earliest and the most potent training school for this world and for the next; and at the starting point of a vast majority of the best Christian lives stands a Christian mother. Truly godly parents really represent God in the household; they get their authority directly from Him; and therefore the wilful dishonouring of such parents is wilful dishonouring of God. There is not the slightest hope of any wholesome religious and soul-converting influence in any family where the parental authority is trampled under foot.

The word "honour" is very deep and strong; it takes hold of the heart, and roots down into the core of the heart. It amounts—as the twelfth chapter of Hebrews tells us—to "reverence" and this, too, when parents are inflicting wise and loving chastisement. The surest way for parents to forfeit the respect of their children is to be too weak, or too indolent, or too unprincipled, to maintain a corrective discipline. Parents must deserve to be honoured, and then they have a right to expect and to require loving and loyal obedience.

What the law on Sinai commanded is re-enacted in the New Testament. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right." Filial obedience is thus made a part and parcel of Christian piety. It ought to be prompt. It ought to be cheerful; it ought to be without protest. General Havelock once rose from his table and exclaimed, "I left my boy on London Bridge, and told him to wait there till I came back!" He hastened to the spot, and there the brave boy was, and had been for several hours! Such obedience was the ground-work of a noble character. That was a wise advertisement; "Wanted—a boy who always obeys his mother."

The mark of Christian obedience is to follow parental counsels even when they "go against the grain," and require painful sacrifice or self-denial. "If a parent has a divine right to correct, it is the filial duty to submit to correction." "A wise

son heareth his father's instruction; but a scorner heareth not rebuke." "A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him." I have watched the careers of hundreds of young people, and have never known one to succeed who went in the face of discreet Christian parents. Is old-fashioned reverence for parents dying out? Do the young obey their fathers and mothers "in the Lord" as readily and implicitly as they used to do? These are questions to be thought over, and prayed over; for they reach to the very roots of vital religion.

What a beautiful sight is the reverence of son or daughter for the gray hairs that gather on the heads that once watched over their cradles! What a primal duty it is to provide for the old age of our parents, and to be patient towards their weaknesses and infirmities! I honour the noble and Christly sacrifice of many a lovely daughter who is willing to deny herself the enjoyments of "society," in order to watch by the bedside of a sick mother, or to be the sweet companion of a poor old father. The religion that is fluent in a prayer-meeting, but is wilful at home, and snaps a cross word in the face of a kind parent, is a hollow sham; for dishonour to parents is an abomination in the sight of God—Dr. T. L. CUYLER.

History of the Alphabet.

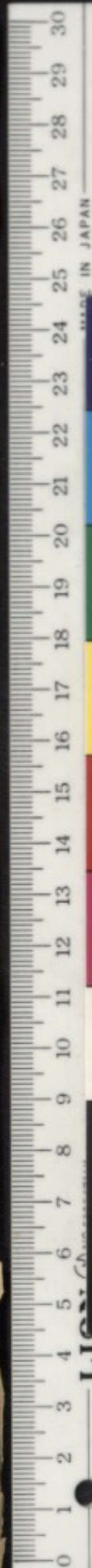
Philadelphia Ledger.

How many of the millions that daily use the alphabet ever stop to think of its origin and long history? In the true spirit of a student, Isaac Taylor, a well-known English writer on philosophical and philological subjects has recently written and published in London, two stout volumes under the title "The Alphabet, an Account of the Origin and Development of Letters." It is only by help of recent discoveries of early inscriptions and the progress in the art of reading lost languages and deciphering hitherto unknown symbols, that such a well posted history has become possible. By careful study of the essays, and scientific investigations of the latest philologists, Taylor has set forth in language within easy comprehension the origin of the alphabet, showing that our own "Roman" letters may be followed back to their very beginning, some twenty or more centuries ago, as he asserts. We have no better letters, according to this account, than those of Italian printers of the fifteenth century. They

were imitated from the beautiful manuscripts of the tenth and eleventh centuries, the lettering of these being derived from the Roman of the Augustan age. The Roman letters, in turn, are traced to those employed at Rome in the third century B. C., and those do not differ greatly from forms used in the earliest existing specimens of Latin writing, dating from the fifth century B. C. This primitive alphabet of Rome was derived from a local form of the Greek alphabet, in use about the sixth century B. C., and that was a variety of the earliest Greek alphabet belonging to the eight or even the ninth century B. C. The Greeks got their letters from the Phœnicians, and theirs are clearly traceable in the most ancient known form of the Semitic.

The most ancient of books, a Papyrus found at Thebes, and now preserved in the French National Library, supplies the earliest forms of the letters used in the Semitic alphabet. The Stone Tables of the Law could have been possible to the Jews, only because of their possession of an alphabet and thus the Bible and modern philological science unite in ascribing a common origin to the alphabet which is in daily use throughout the world. The nineteenth century B. C. is held by Taylor to be the approximate date of the origin of alphabetic writing, and from that time it grew by slow degrees, while from Egypt, attributed to the fifth century B. C. The earliest letters and many later ones are known only by the inscriptions, and it is the rapid increase, by recent discoveries of these precious fragments, that has inspired more diligent research and quickened the zeal of learned students in mastering the elements of knowledge of their origin and history throughout the world. As late as 1876 there were found in Cyprus some bronze plates inscribed with Phœnician characters, dating back to the tenth, even the eleventh century B. C.

Each epoch has its fragments, and the industry of English explorers, the perseverance of German students, and the genius of French scholars, have all contributed to group them in their chronological order. Coins, engraved gems, inscribed statues, and last of all the Siloam inscription, found in 1880 at Jerusalem, on the wall of an old tunnel, have supplied new material for the history. From the common mother of many alphabets, the Phœnician, are descended the Greek and other European systems on the one side, including that which we use and have the greatest interest in; and on the other, the alpha-



bets of Asia, from which have sprung those of the East, Syriac, Arabic and Hebrew.

Telegrams.

London, July 19.

The existence of peace negotiations, or even of the prospect thereof, is not officially admitted either at Madrid or Washington.

The American operations at Manila and Havana will probably be postponed to September until after the rains.

A proclamation, issued by President McKinley, provides for the government of Santiago and the province. All ports and places occupied by the Americans are to be opened to neutral commerce on equal terms. A native constabulary and the ordinary tribunals are to be retained.

In accordance with the terms of the capitulation of Santiago, the Spanish garrisons at Guantanamo and Caimamera surrendered to the Americans yesterday.

The total number of Spanish prisoners is 22,780, far exceeding the force under General Shafter's command.

There is a growing tension between the Americans and the Cuban insurgents. The latter are indignant because Santiago has not been transferred to them. Garcia, the insurgent leader, refused to attend the ceremony of hoisting the American flag over Santiago since which no communication has been held between the two camps.

London, July 19.

The doctor's report states that the Prince of Wales has fractured his knee-cap.

London, July 19.

The *Standard* states the Lord Wolseley is about to be appointed as Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Irish, apparently as a further acknowledgment to the injustice done in sending the regiment to the rear from the Samana.

London, July 20.

The Spanish Cabinet is surprised that General Toral concluded terms with the Americans for the capitulation of the whole military division of Santiago, and has requested Marshal Blanco to send particulars of the surrender, which will be submitted to a Council of War.

A friendly spirit prevails between the Spanish prisoners and American troops at Santiago.

The Spanish Government denies having authorised the surrender of Santiago, and asserts that it left General Toral to act on his own initiative. General Toral will be cited to give an explanation of his surrender before a court-martial.

London, July 20.

A bulletin issued this morning says that the Prince of Wales passed a comfortable day yesterday, considering the severe accident from which His Royal Highness is suffering.

London, July 20.

Notwithstanding the formal demands of Great Britain and France, the Porto has refused to grant any compensation for the losses sustained by British and French subjects during the massacres of Christians in Constantinople.

London, July 20.

The Government have decided to appoint an additional Under-Secretary to the Foreign Office, and Mr. Gosselin, Secretary to the

British Embassy at Paris, has been chosen for the post. The duties to be performed by the new office will probably be to deal specially with African questions.

London, July 21.

A Madrid telegram to the *Morning Post* states that the Spanish Ministers yesterday arrived at an unanimous decision in favour of peace, leaving the responsibility of the capitulation of the Cuban garrisons to Marshal Blanco and General Toral.

The second expedition of American reinforcements for the Philippines arrived at Cavite on the 16th instant, the remainder of the troops sent from San Francisco reaching the destination the following day.

Garcia has written to General Shafter that he is disgusted with the treatment of the insurgents, and declines to further co-operate with the Americans. The insurgents, he says will withdraw to the mountains.

It is assured that the Washington Government will make the American retention of Puerto Rico an essential condition of the terms of peace, and possibly also the cession of the Ladronez for a coaling station. Nothing is yet decided regarding the Philippines.

An American cruiser has captured a British steamer whilst running the blockade of Cienfuegos with provisions.

London, July 21.

Reuter's correspondent at Peking telegraphs that M. Pavloff persists in his demand to the Chinese Government for the exclusion of British or German instructors to the Chinese navy, and demands that Russian instructors be appointed.

London, July 21.

Zola's object in fleeing from France was to avoid being served with the notice of judgment of the Versailles Court, in default of which he will thus be enabled to re-appear in Court in October.

Allahabad, July 21.

It is understood that the construction of the Agra Delhi chord railway will not be undertaken until the bigger project, known as the Nagda-Bara Muttra line is ripe for execution. The two lines are estimated to cost altogether over, 440 lakhs.

Agra, July 21.

This morning the Lieutenant-Governor, accompanied by his suite and Mr. Rose, the Commissioner, visited Messrs. John and Co's Spinning and Weaving Mills. He was highly pleased with all the arrangements and with the firm's enterprise in promoting local industries. This evening Mrs. Rose was "At Home" to a large number of guests who were invited to meet His Honour.

London, July 22.

Telegrams received to-day, give particulars of an engagement at Manzanilla on the 18th instant, when three Spanish merchant-ships and 5 gunboats were destroyed by the American fleet on which there were no casualties. It is believed that upwards of one hundred Spanish seamen were killed.

Don Gomazo, a prominent member of the Spanish Cabinet, has stated that his Government wish to conclude an honourable peace.

Meanwhile a portion of the American expedition for Puerto Rico has already left Charleston, but there is some delay in forwarding the troops from Santiago, frictions having arisen between General Miles and Admiral Sampson owing to the latter delaying the necessary convoy.

London, July 22.

Reuter, telegraphing from Hongkong, says that the Kwangsi rebellion is still unsub-

dued. The Viceroy of the Province continues to send troops against the rebels, and the Chinese are enlisting troops to protect Canton.

London, July 22.

The Prince of Wales is progressing satisfactorily. The specialists in attendance on His Royal Highness have decided not to operate upon the knee, but it is feared that the limb is, therefore likely to become permanently weak.

Bombay, July 23.

There were 10 attacks and 9 deaths reported from plague yesterday.

London, July 23.

It is authoritatively stated at Washington that the President will not sanction an attack upon the Spanish coast except as an extreme measure to terminate the war, and it is also asserted that Commodore Watson's Squadron is being sent to Spain to engage Admiral Camara's squadron, and not to bombard the cities.

General Aguinaldo is acting independently of the Americans at Manila, and aims at establishing a Philippine republic.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Daily News* states that the Powers, except Britain, have arrived at an agreement not to allow the Philippines to be annexed.

London, July 23.

Four American war ships bombarded and silenced the fortifications at Nipe Bay on the north east coast of Cuba, and sank the Spanish cruiser "Jorge Juan."

London, July 24.

In view of the better knowledge now obtained of the conditions among the Cubans, the opinion in Government circles at Washington is that it may be many years before it will be possible to entrust the Cubans with the government of the island.

The Cubans have looted several remote towns in the surrendered territory after the withdrawal of the Spanish garrisons, and have done considerable plundering in the outskirts of Santiago.

General Miles, with four thousand men and five batteries of artillery, has started from Cuba for Puerto Rico, where he is expected to arrive to-morrow. He will be joined by two other brigades now en route. The entire first American army corps is ordered to start for the same destination next week.

The Spaniards at Puerto Rico are making preparations for the vigorous defence of the island.

The garrison of Guantanamo sent an officer to verify whether they were included in the terms of the surrender of Santiago, and finding this to be the case, expressed their willingness to accept the terms; six thousand men are concerned in this capitulation. General Shafter is sending an officer to accept their surrender, and also the surrender of Barracon and Sagua la Grande.

SUPPLEMENT.

Contributed articles on important themes and items of news will be thankfully received. All communications should be addressed to the Editor, Nur Afshan, Ludhiana.

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